

Borough Council Work Session

February 20, 2023

The monthly Work Session meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held in the rear Conference Room of the Souderton Municipal Building on the above date, was called to order by President Tracy Burke at 7:00 p.m. The Borough Council Work Session was attended by the following members and staff:

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| President Tracy W. Burke | Mayor Daniel Yocum |
| Vice-President Edward Huber | |
| Councillor Matthew DiNenna | Junior Councillor Elijah S. Steglik |
| Councillor Daryl Littlefield | Junior Councillor Estrela T. Sadiboko |
| Councillor Donna M. Rogers | |
| Councillor Matthew Sholly | Borough Manager P. Michael Coll |
| Councillor Richard Walczak | Police Chief Brian A. Newhall |
| Councillor Courtnee Wampole | Public Works Director Steven Coll |

POLICE ITEMS

Police Chief Brian Newhall circulated the monthly report of police activities. Part time Officer Bernard Greenberg has retired from the department. Chief Newhall noted that the Police Department continues to regularly monitor activity in the Community Park. The department will need to order additional computers to properly run the camera surveillance system. Unfortunately there is a report of graffiti inside the new gaga pit. The camera system will be reviewed to see if the vandals can be isolated. Public Works crews will address the vandalism.

Police Chief Newhall also reported on a foul odor in the garage bays. Borough forces will assist in trying to find the source, possibly inside a wall or above the ceiling.

HIGHWAY ITEMS

Public Works Director Steven Coll summarized public works activities for the month. Crews have nearly completed routine annual vehicle maintenance of the equipment. The backhoe and wheel loader will require service from the local dealerships. Crews assisted with some preliminary interior work inside the freight building. Park rule signs have been installed inside the Community Park and signage prohibiting dogs inside the Hillside Cemetery have been installed. Crews are working on a few small storm drainage projects along Central Avenue.

Crews installed sanitary sewer laterals to the new five townhouses under construction at N. Second Street and Reliance Road. A connection to the storm drainage system was also installed to connect with the rain garden for the townhouse development.

Public Works Director Steve Coll reported that he is scheduling to begin the site work around the freight building, starting with additional storm drainage between the plaza and railroad tracks, then starting the installation of the rear retaining wall. Crews will be starting work on the foundation for the kitchenette, bathroom and storage building adjacent to the new playground in the Community park. P. K. Moyer & Sons will be completing most of the work with assistance from the Borough crew. Work is planned to complete the sewer main replacement project in the 400 block of Wile Avenue in order to mill and base the road prior to the opening of the swimming pool.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that the Hustler mower has been listed on Municibid with an asking price of \$6,500. The budget includes funding to purchase a new mower, which will be offset by the sale of this old mower. We are getting quotes for a new mower through COSTARS. The Capital reserve Fund Budget also includes funding for the purchase of a used six wheel dump truck from C & S Lawn and Landscape. This was formerly a PennDOT truck and will come fully equipped for \$60,000. The Borough will be listing a Ford ten wheel dump truck for sale on Municibid to help offset this truck purchase.

Councillor Daryl Littlefield recommended that the Borough hold an Earth Day cleanup event as we had done in the past prior to COVID. The event will be held on Saturday, April 22 starting at the Community Park. Councillor Littlefield will coordinate the planned event with the help of Borough staff and crew.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Borough Manager Michael Coll previously informed Borough Council of the pending resignation of Eugene Moyer from the Zoning Hearing Board. Brian V. Harrington submitted a letter of interest for the position. To date he is the only candidate to express interest. Borough Council recommended that he be appointed to fill the remaining term of Gene Moyer at the March 6th Borough Council meeting. Councillor Littlefield will ask him to attend the meeting on March 6 to introduce himself to Borough Council.

Borough Council will meet with Indian Valley Public Library representatives on Tuesday, February 28th and tour the library facility.

Councillor Matthew Sholly reviewed and discussed the Souderton Borough Facebook page. Councillors Matthew Sholly and Daryl Littlefield will be responsible to monitor post items on the Facebook page, which is now ready to go live. Borough Council reviewed a draft policy on posting, displays and advertisements. A motion was made by Councillor Matthew Sholly, second by Councillor Daryl Littlefield, to approve the activation of the Souderton Borough Facebook page. The motion was approved.

Mayor Daniel Yocum commented on a request from Borough resident Jarrett

Gellman to name an alley off of Highland Avenue, running parallel between Washington Avenue and Penn Avenue, as Wisko Alley. The request was in dedication to Jeremiah Wisler, who reportedly was a former Burgess of Souderton, involved with Union National bank, and also owned and operated a cigar factory in Souderton. His residence was at the corner of Penn Avenue and Highland Avenue and his factory is now the house of resident Jarrett Gellman. Borough Council discussed the history and practice associated with naming alleys which generally are not dedicated or ordained by the Borough. A recommendation was made to consider ceremoniously naming the alley by Mayor Proclamation and posting a street name sign at the intersection.

DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

School Lane Development submitted an application for a Conditional Use to permit the construction of a Starbucks on a commercial pad site fronting East Broad Street. Application is necessary because drive through windows are only permitted in the Mixed Use Redevelopment District when authorized by Conditional Use. The hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2023 beginning at 7:00 pm. Attorney Oliver Gingrich of Landis, Hunsberger, Gingrich & Weik will represent the Borough at this hearing. The hearing only concerns the drive through use. The overall land development plan will need to be reviewed and approved by the Souderton Planning Commission and Borough Council prior to permitting.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that the Souderton Planning Commission will be meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 to conduct a cursory review of a subdivision application to be submitted by Gerald Peklak concerning properties at Harleysville Pike and W. Reliance Road. He owns the dwelling at 35 W. Reliance Road. The tentative plan indicates that he plans to convert the side loaded garage to a front loaded garage which will then open up sufficient space to create a building lot between 35 and 53 W. Reliance Road.

SANITATION ITEMS

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that the new Ferrous Sulfate storage tank was recently installed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and is now in service. The original storage tank will be cleaned out removed.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has recently sent out a draft NPDES permit for the Souderton Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Borough submitted an application for a new permit back in 2017. The permit maintains the same limits for nutrient and phosphorus but adds several new parameter limitations that raises levels of concern. The new limits concern copper and parameters relating to the chemicals used in the treatment process. Our consulting engineer is reviewed the new permit draft and forwarded comments and concerns to DEP. Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that the

new permit might require Ultraviolet Disinfection in place of the gas chlorine and at some point the Borough will need to consider a third treatment unit to provide better flow equalization.

RECREATION ITEMS

The Parks and Recreation Committee recommended the continuation of a management contract with Bennington Pool Services for the 2023 summer season. Membership rates have been established, with rates increasing by approximately 5%. The committee recommends looking for employees to run the front pool office and assist with the sale of pool memberships. The Committee continues to evaluate hiring our own staff to run the pool facility as early as the 2024 pool season. Borough Council approved the posting an advertisement on the Borough website seeking help in the Pool Office with membership sales, daily admissions and patron services.

Projects scheduled for the Community Park Improvement project include completion of the kitchenette, bathroom and storage building adjacent to the new playground, completion of the pathway paving and the construction of the rain garden.

Souderton Area Baseball League inquired about funding assistance from the Borough to make fencing improvements at the Lawn Avenue baseball fields. Committee members noted that such improvement expenses were not considered in developing the 2023 Budget.

PROPERTY ITEMS

Gilmore and Associates has scheduled the survey and complete the design and specifications to expand the parking lot behind the Souderton Train Station to provide additional parking opportunities in the downtown core district. The Borough Manager suggested that Gilmore and Associates also look at a more basic design to improve the municipal parking lot off of W. Chestnut Street.

FINANCE ITEMS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary